

Unified Savings and Accountability (USA) Act

The USA Act would implement suggestions from GAO's Annual Reports to "Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits".

Title I of the USA Act includes provisions relating to federal property, federal contracts, and information technology:

- **Contract Competition** (Billions in savings¹) – Promote Effective federal contract competition to reduce expenses.
- **Bulk Buying** (\$4-\$50 Billion²) – Promote massive federal buying power to lower prices.
- **Duplication of IT Investments** – Strengthen oversight of and avoids duplication in IT investments.
- **Reverse Auctions in Government Contracting** (\$1 billion³) – Increasing government use of reverse auctions, additional guidance may help maximize opportunities to increase competition and improve the accuracy of estimated cost savings.
- **Federal Real Property Management Reform** (S. 1398/CBO Score⁴) - would help facilitate the disposal of unneeded federal property and establish a framework for federal agencies to better manage existing space in a more cost-effective manner.

Title II of the USA Act includes provisions in various other areas:

- **Medicare/Medicaid Fraud** (\$36 billion⁵) – Improve CMS ability to find and eliminate fraud.
- **Passports for Taxes** (\$500 million over 5 years according to CBO⁶) – Cancel passports of citizens who owe more than \$50K in taxes.
- **Cost-Efficient Cash** – Require Treasury to spend less on printing money than the value of the money being printed.
- **Paperless Congress** – Require default delivery of official congressional documents to be electronic instead of paper.
- **Online Taxpayer Services** (GAO says million⁷) – Enhancing its online services, the Internal Revenue Service could realize cost savings and increased revenues. This also would improve service to taxpayers and encourage greater tax law compliance.
- **Better Data to Mitigate Foreclosures** (176 million annually⁸) – The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Housing Administration and the

¹GAO, http://www.gao.gov/duplication/action_tracker/Competition_for_Federal_Contracts/action1#t=0

² 2013 Annual Report: *Actions Needed to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve other Financial Benefits* (GAO-13-279SP), pg. 181, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/653604.pdf>.

³ Ibid, pg. 218, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/669613.pdf>.

⁴ Congressional Budget Office, S. 1398, November 1, 2013, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/44682/>

⁵ *Medicare Program Integrity Increased Oversight and Guidance Could Improve Effectiveness and Efficiency of Post payment Claims Reviews* (GAO-14-474), pg. 26, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/664879.pdf>.

⁶ 2015 Annual Report: *Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits* (GAO-15-404SP), pg. 32-33, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/669613.pdf>.

⁷ 2014 Annual Report: *Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits* (GAO-14-343SP), pg. 9, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/662327.pdf>.

⁸ Ibid, pg. 8, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/662327.pdf>.

Departments of Veterans Affairs and Agriculture could improve outcomes and better manage the costs associated with foreclosure mitigation efforts with additional data collection and analysis.

- **US Currency** (\$4.4 billion over 30 years⁹) – Consistent with eight previous reports, GAO once again recommended modernizing US Currency by phasing out the \$1 note and replacing it with a \$1 coin.

⁹ GAO, [http://www.gao.gov/duplication/action_tracker/U.S. Currency/action1](http://www.gao.gov/duplication/action_tracker/U.S._Currency/action1)